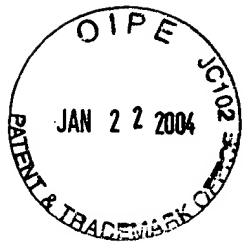


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of

Budaragin, Leonid

Serial No.: 09/835,453

Filed: April 16, 2001

For: COATINGS FOR METAL CUTTING TOOLS

Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: Barr

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on Jan 20 2004 with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Mail Stop AF, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Attorney Docket No. R3990/252636

WRITTEN ASSERTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.27(g)

Sir:

Applicant, through the undersigned attorney, asserts that the above-identified patent application is entitled to small entity status.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce D. Gray
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Date: Jan 20, 2004

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